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Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

Summary

The present report contains resolutions and decisions adopted at the recent sessions of the regional commissions that call for action by the Economic and Social Council or are to be brought to its attention. The report covers the period between the Council's substantive sessions of 1997 and 1998. During the first half of 1998, three of the five regional commissions held their regular sessions: the Economic Commission for Europe held its fifty-third session at Geneva from 20 to 23 April 1998; The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held its fifty-fourth session at Bangkok from 16 to 22 April 1998; and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean held its twenty-seventh session at Aruba from 11 to 16 May 1998. The Economic Commission for Africa, which holds its sessions on a biennial basis, did not meet in 1998; however, the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Conference of Ministers for Economic and Social Development and Planning met at Addis Ababa on 23 and 24 April 1998. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which holds its sessions on a biennial basis, did not meet in 1998.

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I. Matters calling for action by the Council

A. Economic Commission for Europe

1. At its fifty-third session, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) adopted one resolution requiring action by the Council.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Review of the regional commissions by the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, in which the Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to conduct a review of the regional commissions,

Noting that the Economic Commission for Europe, at its fifty-third session, considered a note by the Executive Secretary on relations with other regional, subregional and global organizations and institutions[1] and a report on operational activities and cooperation with subregional groupings, interests and initiatives,[2]

Recalling the principles governing the relationship of the Economic Commission for Europe with other bodies as set forth in chapter IV of its Plan of Action,[3]

1. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen cooperation between the Economic Commission for Europe and other bodies according to complementarities in terms of mandates, membership and approaches to issues of common concern;

2. *Stresses* that in order to ensure synergies and coherence, as well as to avoid duplication and inconsistencies, these relationships should be based on regular exchange of information in common areas of work and on mutual recognition and use of the expertise and experience available in each organization and should lead to joint activities, as appropriate;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of dialogue among the secretariats of institutions and of consistent messages by Governments in different forums in order to maximize cooperation among institutions;

4. *Recognizes* that the Economic Commission for Europe has acquired over the years considerable knowledge of countries with economies in transition and has developed long-standing working relationships with those countries in the areas of its expertise;

5. *Stresses* that, in responding to the specific needs of the region, the Economic Commission for Europe has two core functions: the development and harmonization of legal instruments, norms and standards in its areas of expertise, and the production of statistics and analyses in those areas;

6. *Welcomes* the involvement of interested non-member States in the development and adoption of norms established by the Commission as well as the interest of other regions in using these norms and in adapting them to their concerns and needs;

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[1] E/ECE/1362.

[2] E/ECE/1359 and Corr.1.

[3] E/ECE/1347, see also *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 16* (E/1997/36), chap. IV, decision A (52).

7. *Emphasizes* that the technical assistance activities of the Commission are limited in scale and are undertaken in support of the functions mentioned in paragraph 5 above, and are directed in particular towards countries with economies in transition;

8. *Stresses* that the Commission also has the role of bringing the contribution of the region to the global level and facilitating the implementation of international commitments in the region with respect to its areas of work;

9. *Takes note* of the information on the relationships that the Economic Commission for Europe has built up with other organizations in its areas of cooperation.[4]

B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

2. At its fifty-fourth session, the Commission approved the following draft resolution for action by the Council:

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Strengthening regional support for persons with disabilities into the twenty-first century

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 1992/289 of 31 July 1992 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002,

Noting the implementation efforts made during the first half of the Decade by many countries and areas in the Asia and Pacific region, including progress in the adoption of equalization legislation, as well as the intercountry meetings hosted by the Governments of India, Japan, Malaysia and the Philippines on critical issues in the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002[5] related to assistive devices, non-handicapping environments, multisectoral collaboration and national coordination,

Welcoming the Seoul Proposals for the Second Half of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons adopted by the Meeting of Senior Officials to Mark the Mid-point of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea in September 1997,

Expressing its appreciation to the Subcommittee on Disability-related Concerns of the Regional Inter-Agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific for pioneering collaborative inter-organizational action for the Decade,

Noting the need for a stronger regional impetus to support national and local endeavours in the second half of the Decade,

1. *Requests* the General Assembly to endorse the present resolution and to encourage intergovernmental organizations to support its implementation in order to assist in addressing equalization issues faced by the majority of the world's disabled persons, including disabled women and disabled children, who live in the Asia and Pacific region;

2. *Urges* all members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific:

[4] See E/ECE/1359 and Corr.1 and E/ECE/1362.

[5] E/ESCAP/902, annex II.

(a) To intensify multisectoral collaborative action towards the fulfilment of the targets for the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002, adopted by the Commission at its forty-ninth session, in April 1993;[6]

(b) To contribute to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific technical cooperation trust fund for the Decade to meet capacity-building needs for information and technical assistance in multisectoral collaboration among diverse sectors, in support of the fulfilment of the targets for the Decade;

3. *Further urges* all Governments that have not yet signed the Proclamation on the Full Participation and Equality of People with Disabilities in the Asian and Pacific Region[7] to do so before the next regional meeting to review the progress of the Decade, to be held in 1999;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to strengthen secretariat assistance to members and associate members by taking the following action:

(a) Harnessing the multidisciplinary potential of the secretariat of the Commission to enhance sensitivity to disabilities – that is, by the inclusion of persons with disabilities and/or the consideration of the impact of secretariat assistance on disability-related concerns – as a performance criterion of the secretariat's overall technical assistance, on a par with other criteria, such as gender sensitivity and relevance to development needs in the countries and areas of the region;

(b) Examining resource allocations within the secretariat, with a view to undertaking the adjustments required to enhance secretariat support for disability-related action;

(c) Mobilizing resources to continually replenish the technical cooperation trust fund for the Decade for the purposes of documentation, exchanges and field visits, and to disseminate good practices in the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Decade, giving special attention to the enhancement of knowledge and skills among persons with disabilities and the equal participation of disabled women and girls;

(d) Generating practical guidelines for advancing equal access by disabled persons to mainstream development opportunities, by organizing and following up on two regional meetings in 1999, in close collaboration with other members of the Subcommittee on Disability-related Concerns, on the following topics:

(i) Education and technology for the specific needs of disabled children and youth;

(ii) Implementation of the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and fulfilment of the targets for the Decade;

(e) Exploring the means of organizing, by the end of 2002, a high-level regional meeting to consider the lessons learned from national and area efforts towards the fulfilment of the targets for the Decade, so as to lay a solid foundation for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in mainstream society into the twenty-first century;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission biennially on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, with emphasis on

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[6] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 16* (E/1993/36), chap. IV, resolution 49/6.

[7] E/ESCAP/902, annex I.

follow-up action to reinforce the impact of the above-mentioned regional meetings, and to submit recommendations to the Commission, as required, concerning continuous secretariat action to improve the opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in the development process, until 2003, when the overall endeavours of the Decade will be reviewed as a separate agenda item at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission, to provide a basis for further action in the new millennium.

C. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

3. At its twenty-seventh session, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean received an invitation from the Government of Mexico to hold its twenty-eighth session in that country, in the year 2000. On 16 May, the Commission adopted resolution 575 (XXVII), in which it accepted that invitation and recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve the holding of the Commission's twenty-eighth session in Mexico in the year 2000.

DRAFT DECISION

Venue of the twenty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council, noting the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of resolution 575 (XXVII) of 16 May 1998 on the place and date of the twenty-eighth session of the Commission, decides to endorse the decision of the Commission to accept the invitation of the Government of Mexico to hold the twenty-eighth session of the Commission in Mexico in the year 2000.

D. Economic Commission for Africa

4. On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Commission convened an International Conference on African Women and Economic Development, which took place in Addis Ababa, from 28 April to 1 May 1998. The ECA Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Conference of Ministers for Economic and Social Development and Planning also met and approved two draft resolutions for adoption by the Council.

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Relationships between the Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations agencies and regional and subregional organizations in Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Africa, as adopted by the Council in resolution 671 A (XXV) of 29 April 1958, and as amended in its resolutions 974 D I (XXXVI) of 5 July 1963, 1343 (XLV) of 18 July 1968 and 1978/68 of 4 August 1978,

Recalling also the various resolutions that have implications for the mandate and operations of the Commission including, in particular, General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United

Nations system, 33/202 of 29 January 1979, 44/211 of 22 December 1989 and 50/120 of 20 December 1995,

Recalling further Commission resolutions 718 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991 on the revitalization of the mandate and operational framework of the regional commission for Africa,[8] 726 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992 on strengthening the Economic Commission for Africa to face Africa's development challenges in the 1990s,[9] 779 (XXIX) of 4 May 1994 on strengthening the operational capacity of the Economic Commission for Africa[10] and 809 (XXXI) of 8 May 1996 on new directions for the Economic Commission for Africa,[11]

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 45/177 of 19 December 1990 and 45/264 of 13 May 1991 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, as well as resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992, in the annex to which the Assembly stated that the regional commissions should be enabled fully to play their role under the authority of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and that those located in developing countries should be strengthened in the context of the overall objectives of the restructuring and revitalization process,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform", in which the Assembly invited the Economic and Social Council, in consultation with Member States and appropriate intergovernmental regional bodies, to conduct a general review of the regional commissions at its substantive session of 1998, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and the individual reviews each commission had already carried out, in order to consider the competencies of the regional commissions, taking into account the competencies of global bodies and other regional and subregional intergovernmental bodies,

Having examined the note by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa entitled "Reform of the regional commissions: relations between the Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations agencies, regional and subregional organizations in Africa",[12]

1. *Welcomes* the note by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* of the observations and analyses contained in the note;

3. *Decides* to adopt the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1. Reaffirm and support existing coordination mechanisms at the regional level

An important first step in enhancing collaboration between the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations agencies is to reaffirm and support the team leadership role assigned to the regional commissions by the General Assembly in resolution 32/197. The agencies should use the mechanism of a regional administrative committee on coordination, first suggested in 1994 by the Secretary-General. The Economic and Social Council should consider providing a legislative directive to this effect. The regional administrative committee on coordination would be a useful mechanism for addressing a number of regional issues, including follow-up to the global conferences and programmes

[8] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 16* (E/1991/37), chap. IV.

[9] Ibid., *1992, Supplement No. 13* (E/1992/33), chap. IV.

[10] Ibid., *1994, Supplement No. 20* (E/1994/40), chap. IV.

[11] Ibid., *1996, Supplement No. 35* (E/1996/35), chap. IV.

[12] E/ECA/MFC.½

on post-conflict reconstruction developments in Africa. In this regard, the forthcoming meeting of the Conference of Ministers, to be held in 1999, should consider in-depth coordination and collaboration among United Nations agencies operating at the subregional and regional levels in Africa.

Recommendation 2. Adopt some principles for regional coordination

The United Nations agencies in Africa should adopt some principles for regional coordination. The agencies should endeavour to foster regional coordination on the basis of promoting greater exchange of information on planned and ongoing work; improve complementarities among programmes; draw on each other's competencies; and bring the pool of resources – financial and human – at their disposal to bear on policy issues of common interest.

Recommendation 3. Strengthen coordination at the subregional level

Coordination or collaboration among United Nations agencies in Africa should also be enhanced at the subregional level. At this level, this should take the form of the development of joint ventures to support the specific activities of countries in a subregional framework. In this way, the complementarities and harmony sought at the regional level will be given greater impact and impetus. The Subregional Development Centres of the Economic Commission for Africa should be an important vehicle for coordination at the subregional level.

Recommendation 4. The role of the Economic Commission for Africa in normative and operational functions

The Economic Commission for Africa, as a United Nations regional commission and as one of the regional institutions in the service of the development of Africa, has carried out valuable normative (analysis, advocacy, norm-setting) and operational activities that have been mutually complementary and supportive to the member States of the region. The Commission should continue to undertake both categories of activities, it being recognized that its technical assistance plays a catalytic role in translating its normative work into concrete support for the development efforts of member States.

Recommendation 5. Enhanced cooperation among African organizations

At the regional level, there is already implicit specialization and division of labour among Africa's three major intergovernmental organizations: the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank. There remains, however, a need to promote a more clear-cut division of responsibilities, and to rationalize and strengthen complementarities among the three organizations more strictly, according to their mandates and competencies, as a means of increasing their combined effectiveness, impact and efficiency in their collective mandate – to oversee the overall development of Africa at the regional level. This calls for these African organizations to strengthen their joint secretariat by implementing among themselves similar strategies as outlined above for the United Nations system. In particular, they should:

(a) Strengthen coordination, including collaboration in programme development, planning of activities, monitoring and evaluation, geared to building upon and exploiting complementarities;

(b) Improve networking and communications at all staff levels, not only at the level of chief executive;

(c) Work to establish a common ethos among their staff, based on a common perspective of Africa's political, social and economic development challenges and opportunities, and a common zeal to move Africa forward;

(d) Streamline and coordinate their intergovernmental machineries: the governing bodies of all African organizations could be required to summarize, in a joint report, their main decisions for submission to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, of the Organization of African Unity, which is the supreme organ of the African Economic Community.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Revision of the medium-term plan, 1998-2001 of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the note by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa on the "First revision to the medium-term plan, 1998-2001",[13]

Recalling Commission resolution 809 (XXXI) of 8 May 1996, in which the Commission endorsed the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, in the context of the new directions for the Economic Commission for Africa,[14]

Further recalling Commission resolutions 810 (XXXI) of 8 May 1996[15] and 828 (XXXII) of 8 May 1997,[16] in which the Commission called for the strengthening of the former Multinational Programming and Operational Centres and their transformation into Subregional Development Centres with an extended programme and policy orientation, as well as resolution 824 (XXXI) of 8 May 1996 entitled "Follow-up to the Dakar and Beijing Conferences: implementation of the global and regional platforms for action for the advancement of women",[17]

Endorses the revision to the medium-term plan, 1998-2001, involving the establishment of two new subprogrammes: "Promoting the advancement of women" and "Supporting subregional activities for development".

II. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

A. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

5. At its fifty-fourth session, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted five resolutions, which are brought to the attention of the Council.

Resolution 54/2. Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region

6. The Commission endorsed the Manila Declaration on Accelerated Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, as adopted at the

[13] E/ECA/MFC.1/3.

[14] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 15* (E/1996/35), chap. IV.

[15] Ibid.

[16] Ibid., *1997, Supplement No. 17* (E/1997/37), chap. IV.

[17] Ibid., *1996, Supplement No. 15* (E/1996/35), chap. IV.

Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development, on 11 November 1997. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with all relevant bodies and agencies, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Declaration and to strengthen cooperation and collaboration in planning and programming for regional social development in that implementation. It further requested the provision of technical assistance to strengthen national capabilities for multisectoral and integrated social development planning and programming. It also requested the Executive Secretary to take measures to establish a Regional Inter-Agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee on the Regional Social Development Agenda. The Commission called for the convening of a regional meeting of senior officials in 1999 to review progress in the implementation of the preparations for the global review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development by the General Assembly at its special session in 2000.

Resolution 54/3. Bangkok Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Industrial and Technological Development in the Asian and Pacific Region and the Regional Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development

7. The Commission endorsed the Bangkok Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Industrial and Technological Development in the Asian and Pacific Region and the Regional Action Plan for Industrial and Technological Development adopted by the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, held in February 1998. The Commission called upon all relevant bodies, agencies and organizations, including members of the Subcommittee on Industry and Technology of the Regional Inter-Agency Committee for the Asia and the Pacific, to participate actively and effectively in the implementation of the Declaration and the Regional Action Plan. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to undertake the preparation of a comprehensive study dealing with the implications of the current economic crisis in the region for the industrial and technological development process, and to conduct a mid-term review at the session of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation in the year 2000.

Resolution 54/4. Mobilization of human and financial resources for further implementation of actions to achieve the population and development goals of the ESCAP region

8. The Commission endorsed the outcomes of the High-level Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system to take appropriate steps to reorient the Asian and Pacific regional programme on population and sustainable development in accordance with the key future actions recommended by the High-level Meeting and to report on the implementation of the resolution at the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, planned for the year 2002.

Resolution 54/5. International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages

9. The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to the fulfilment of the goals and targets contained in the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted by the World Assembly on Ageing in 1982, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region. It urged all members and associate members to take early and effective action to make preparations for the International Year

of Older Persons designated by the General Assembly to be observed in 1999. The Commission called upon members and associate members to strengthen national mechanisms where necessary and for all concerned bodies, agencies and organizations to enhance their efforts to generate greater awareness of issues relating to ageing and older persons. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to convene a regional meeting to formulate a plan of action on ageing in the Asian and Pacific region, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/141, and to continue to facilitate the exchange of national experiences and information and to disseminate data and materials concerning older persons. It further requested the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission, in 2000, on the observance of the International Year of Older Persons and on progress made in the implementation of the plan of action on ageing for Asia and the Pacific.

Resolution 54/6. Strengthening the role of the family in social development

10. The Commission invited its members and associate members to continue their activities to build family-friendly societies and urged them to plan for programmes and projects in a holistic manner and to strengthen multigenerational relationships. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with concerned United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as donor Governments and multilateral funding agencies, to continue to play an active role in facilitating regional cooperation within the framework of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family through exchange of information on effective policies and strategies and technical assistance, together with organizing subregional meetings and relevant research. The Executive Secretary was also requested to convene, within the current biennium, a regional workshop on strengthening the role of the family in providing social protection and to prepare and disseminate a publication on the topic and to report to the Commission, in 2000, on regional cooperation strategies to achieve a more focused and coordinated approach to the family within the United Nations system.

B. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

11. At its twenty-seventh session, held from 11 to 16 May 1998, the Commission adopted three resolutions of particular interest to the Economic and Social Council.

Resolution 564 (XXVII). The fiscal covenant: strengths, weaknesses, challenges

12. The Commission welcomed the main document presented by the secretariat, entitled "The fiscal covenant: strengths, weaknesses, challenges", deeming it a significant contribution to the study of recent trends in public finances and public sector management in the region, in particular because of the unifying concept of the "fiscal covenant" in the consideration of such trends. The Commission emphasized the relevance to such a covenant of the challenges of consolidating the fiscal adjustment now in progress, increasing the productivity of public management, enhancing transparency of fiscal actions, promoting the goal of equity in public revenue and expenditure and encouraging the development of democratic institutions. The Commission identified priority issues which required to be developed in greater depth by the secretariat, urging it to persevere in its study of the modernization of the public sector and the role of the State in the democratic process of changing production patterns with social equity.

Resolution 565 (XXVII). Reform of the United Nations and its impact on ECLAC

13. Recognizing that reform at ECLAC should continue to take place within the overall framework of reform in the United Nations, the Commission recommended that the reform measures be applied along the lines indicated in the note by the secretariat entitled "Reform of the ECLAC management system: delegation of authority and accountability". The Commission renewed the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group established pursuant to its resolution 553 (XXVI) and requested the Group to consider, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, the progress achieved in the implementation of current United Nations reform proposals pertinent to the Commission, and entrusted it with the preparation of a progress report to be submitted, through the Executive Secretary, to the Economic and Social Council at its resumed substantive session, for subsequent consideration by the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-second session.

Resolution 574 (XXVII). Participation of ECLAC associate member countries in the follow-up to United Nations world conferences, and in the work of the Economic and Social Council.

14. The Commission requested member countries to devise, through their representatives to the General Assembly, the necessary mechanism for the participation of associate members of ECLAC to enable them to participate in the special sessions of the General Assembly to review and appraise the implementation of the programmes of action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, and to participate in the preparatory processes related to the special session. The Commission also requested member countries to devise, through their representatives to the Economic and Social Council, the necessary mechanism for the participation of associate members of the regional commissions in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies.

Other resolutions adopted by ECLAC at its twenty-seventh session

15. Also at its twenty-seventh session, the Commission adopted resolutions endorsing the full incorporation of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) as a division of the Commission (resolution 569 (XXVII)); and supporting the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) (resolution 570 (XXVII)). It approved the work programme for the biennium 2000-2001 (resolution 566 (XXVII)), the calendar of conferences for the period 1998-2000 (resolution 567 (XXVII)) and the follow-up to the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001 (resolution 568 (XXVII)). The Commission also accepted the invitation of the Government of Peru to hold in that country the eighth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in the year 2000.